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A 1.9 EARTH RADIUS ROCKY PLANET AND THE DISCOVERY OF A NON-TRANSITING PLANET IN THE KEPLER-20 SYSTEM ^a

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ABSTRACT

Kepler-20 is a solar-type star ($V = 12.5$) hosting a compact system of five transiting planets, all packed within the orbital distance of Mercury in our own Solar System. A transition from rocky to gaseous planets with a planetary transition radius of $\sim 1.6 R_{\oplus}$ has recently been proposed by several publications in the literature ([Rogers 2015](#); [Weiss & Marcy 2014](#)). Kepler-20b ($R_p \sim 1.9 R_{\oplus}$) has a size beyond this transition radius, however previous mass measurements were not sufficiently precise to allow definite conclusions to be drawn regarding its composition. We present new mass measurements of

three of the planets in the Kepler-20 system facilitated by 104 radial velocity measurements from the HARPS-N spectrograph and 30 archival Keck/HIRES observations, as well as an updated photometric analysis of the Kepler data and an asteroseismic analysis of the host star ($M_{\star} = 0.948 \pm 0.051 M_{\odot}$ and $R_{\star} = 0.964 \pm 0.018 R_{\odot}$). Kepler-20b is a $1.868^{+0.066}_{-0.034} R_{\oplus}$ planet in a 3.7 day period with a mass of $9.70^{+1.41}_{-1.44} M_{\oplus}$ resulting in a mean density of $8.2^{+1.5}_{-1.3} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ indicating a rocky composition with an iron to silicate ratio consistent with that of the Earth. This makes Kepler-20b the most massive planet with a rocky composition found to date. Furthermore, we report the discovery of an additional non-transiting planet with a minimum mass of $19.96^{+3.08}_{-3.61} M_{\oplus}$ and an orbital period of ~ 34 days in the gap between Kepler-20f ($P \sim 11$ days) and Kepler-20d ($P \sim 78$ days).

Keywords: planetary systems – planets and satellites: composition – stars: individual

(Kepler-20 = KOI-70, KIC 6850504 – techniques: radial velocities)

1. INTRODUCTION

With the discovery of thousands of small transiting exoplanets by dedicated space-based missions like NASA's Kepler Mission (Batalha et al. 2013) and ESA's CoRoT Mission (Auvergne et al. 2009), a new class of small planets has emerged. In contrast to the hot-Jupiters, these small planets ($< 4 R_{\oplus}$) are astonishingly common in our Galaxy (Burke et al. 2015; Dressing & Charbonneau 2013, 2015; Howard et al. 2012; Petigura et al. 2013). We now know that the majority of stars harbor small exoplanets and that nearly two-thirds of the planets discovered by Kepler range in size between 1 and $4 R_{\oplus}$. This unexpected population of super-Earths and sub-Neptunes - larger than Earth but smaller than Neptune ($3.9 R_{\oplus}$) - is completely absent in our own Solar System, which furthermore lacks planets with orbital periods shorter than the 88 day orbit of Mercury.

Although we know of thousands of these small transiting exoplanets, only a few of these currently have precise mass measurements (precision better than 20%) allowing us to distinguish between different compositional models. Precise masses and resulting bulk densities are especially important for small planets, since a wide diversity of planet compositions are possible including rocky terrestrial planets with compact atmospheres and rocky cores with significant fractions of volatiles, like water and methane, and/or extended hydrogen/helium envelopes. A transition from rocky to gaseous planets has been proposed to occur at planetary radii of around $1.5 - 1.7 R_{\oplus}$ by a number of authors (e.g. [Weiss & Marcy 2014](#); [Rogers 2015](#)).

The Kepler-20 system is particularly interesting because Kepler-20b has a radius ($R_{p,b} = 1.868^{+0.066}_{-0.034} R_{\oplus}$) beyond the proposed transition to planets with a significant fraction of volatiles and is amenable to precise determination of its bulk density. Furthermore, the Kepler-20 systems is intriguing in terms of its formation history, because of its compact nature and the size of the planets alternating between smaller and larger planets in the interior of the system.

Four of the transiting planets in the Kepler-20 system were first announced as candidate planets in [Borucki et al. \(2011\)](#). [Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#) subsequently validated three of the planets, including mass measurements of Kepler-20b ($M_{p,b} = 8.7^{+2.1}_{-2.2} M_{\oplus}$) and Kepler-20c ($M_{p,c} = 16.1^{+3.3}_{-3.7} M_{\oplus}$). Later [Fressin et al. \(2012\)](#) validated two additional Earth-size planets (Kepler-20e and f) increasing the total number of planets in the Kepler-20 system to five, all packed within the orbital distance of Mercury in our own Solar System (see Figure 1 for a graphical presentation of the system architecture).

In this paper, we revisit the mass determination of the planets in the Kepler-20 system with the goal of improving the masses and radii of the planets in order to allow us to discriminate between different compositional models. In particular, we attempt to resolve whether Kepler-20b has a rocky or gaseous composition, since the mass determination in [Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#) was not of sufficient precision to draw firm conclusions regarding its composition. We have significantly increased the number of

radial velocity (RV) measurements by adding 104 HARPS-N observations to the existing 30 HIRES measurements allowing a more precise mass determination. Moreover, the new RV measurements allowed us to discover a non-transiting planet in the system situated in the gap between Kepler-20f and Kepler-20d, which we denote Kepler-20g. Lastly, we performed an updated photometric analysis of the Kepler light curve using all the available data in conjunction with an asteroseismic analysis of the parameters of the host stars, yielding a significantly improved precision on the stellar radius and thus the radii of the planets.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

We obtained 125 observations of Kepler-20 (KOI-70, KIC 6850504, 2MASS J19104752+4220194) with the HARPS-N spectrograph on the 3.58 m Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (TNG) located at Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory, La Palma, Spain (Cosentino et al. 2012). HARPS-N is an updated version of the original HARPS spectrograph on the 3.6 m telescope at the European Southern Observatory on La Silla, Chile. HARPS-N is an ultra-stable fiber-fed high-resolution ($R = 115,000$) spectrograph with an optical wavelength coverage from 383 to 693 nm designed specifically to provide precise radial velocities. The instrument has significantly improved our understanding of small transiting planets with several precise mass measurements of transiting planets (Pepe et al. 2013; Dumusque et al. 2014; López-Morales et al. 2014; Bonomo et al. 2014; Dressing et al. 2015; Gettel et al. 2016). We obtained 61 and 64 observations of Kepler-20 in the 2014 and 2015 observing seasons, respectively (125 observations in total). We rejected 21 observations obtained under poor observing conditions where the internal error estimate exceeded 5 m s^{-1} leaving a total of 104 observations.

Kepler-20 has a $m_V = 12.5$ and required 30 minute exposure times to build up an adequate signal to noise ratio (SNR). The average SNR per pixel of the observations at 550 nm is 30 yielding an average internal uncertainty estimate of 3.66 m s^{-1} . The data were extracted and reduced with the

standard HARPS-N pipeline. The extracted spectra were cross-correlated with a delta function mask based on the spectrum of a G2V star (Baranne et al. 1996; Pepe et al. 2002). The resulting radial velocities and their 1σ errors are shown in Table 1 along with their weighted midtime of exposure in BJD UTC, the activity indicators FWHM (full width at half maximum) and $\text{Ca II log}(R'_{HK})$ with respective uncertainties and SNR at 550 nm.

Gautier et al. (2012) obtained 30 spectra of Kepler-20 between August 2009 and June 2011 using the HIRES spectrometer on the Keck I 10 meter telescope (Vogt et al. 1994). With a typical exposure time of 30 to 45 minutes on a telescope with a light collecting power almost a factor of 8 greater than that of the TNG, the average SNR per pixel is 120 yielding an average internal uncertainty of 3.04 m s^{-1} . If the internal errors are taken at face value, the increase in SNR by 400% leads to a increase in RV precision of only 20%, when compared to the HARPS-N RVs. In Section 5, we calculate the average internal uncertainty including an added jitter term for each instrument. The conclusion is that the average internal uncertainty of the HIRES RVs is 23% more precise than the HARPS-N RVs, despite the 400% higher SNR.

Table 1. HARPS-N RV measurements.

BJD - 2,400,000	RV	RV error	FWHM	FWHM error	$\log(R'_{HK})$	$\log(R'_{HK})$ error	SNR
(days)	(m s^{-1})	(m s^{-1})	(m s^{-1})	(m s^{-1})	(dex)	(dex)	550 nm
56764.716145	-20933.75	4.52	6874.48	10.62	-4.82	0.06	25.80
56765.642308	-20932.51	3.86	6891.10	9.07	-4.87	0.06	29.60

Table 1 continued on next page

Table 1 (*continued*)

BJD - 2,400,000	RV	RV error	FWHM	FWHM error	$\log(R'_{HK})$	$\log(R'_{HK})$ error	SNR
(days)	(m s^{-1})	(m s^{-1})	(m s^{-1})	(m s^{-1})	(dex)	(dex)	550 nm
56769.649982	-20917.87	3.76	6884.07	8.84	-4.82	0.05	28.80
56783.585315	-20934.24	4.03	6874.57	9.47	-4.94	0.07	29.10
56784.611099	-20925.09	3.98	6873.34	9.35	-4.79	0.05	28.70
...

NOTE—Table 1 is published in its entirety in the electronic edition of the *Astrophysical Journal*. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

Table 2. System Parameters for Kepler-20

Parameter	Value	Ref.
Right Ascension (J2000)	$19^{\text{h}}10^{\text{m}}47.^{\text{s}}52$	1
Declination (J2000)	$+42^{\circ}20'19''.4$	1
Kepler magnitude	12.498	1
V magnitude	12.51	2
T_{eff} (K)	5495 ± 50	3
$\log g$	4.446 ± 0.01	4
[m/H]	0.07 ± 0.08	3

Table 2 continued on next page

Table 2 (*continued*)

Parameter	Value	Ref.
$v \sin i$ (km s ⁻¹)	< 2	3
M_{\star} (M_{\odot})	0.948 ± 0.051	4
R_{\star} (R_{\odot})	0.964 ± 0.018	4
Age (Gyr)	7.6 ± 3.7	4
Systemic velocity γ (m s ⁻¹)	$-20926.9^{+0.54}_{-0.64}$	5

¹[Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#)

²[Lasker et al. \(2008\)](#)

³From SPC analysis in Section [3.1](#)

⁴From asteroseismic analysis in Section [3.2](#)

⁵From RV analysis in Section [5](#)

3. STELLAR PROPERTIES

3.1. Spectroscopy

[Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#) obtained stellar parameters for Kepler-20 from two HIRES template spectra without the iodine cell that were analyzed using SME ([Valenti & Piskunov 1996](#); [Valenti & Fischer 2005](#)) yielding $T_{\text{eff}} = 5455 \pm 44$ K, $\log g = 4.40 \pm 0.10$, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0.01 \pm 0.04$ and $v \sin i < 2$ km s⁻¹. The Stellar Parameter Classification tool (SPC; [Buchhave et al. 2012, 2014](#)) was also used to analyze spectra from FIES, McDonald and HIRES, yielding $T_{\text{eff}} = 5563 \pm 50$ K, $\log g = 4.52 \pm 0.10$, $[\text{m}/\text{H}] = 0.04 \pm 0.08$ and $v \sin i = 1.8 \pm 0.5$ km s⁻¹, consistent with the SME values, except for the effective temperature, which is 108 K higher.

We used SPC([Buchhave et al. 2012, 2014](#)) to derive the stellar parameters of the host star from the 125 high-resolution high SNR HARPS-N spectra (average SNR per pixel of 30). Since SPC

does not require a very high SNR, we were able to utilize all the spectra for the analysis. We ran SPC with all parameters unconstrained and with the surface gravity constrained to the value determined from asteroseismology ($\log g = 4.446 \pm 0.01$, see Section 3.2). The surface gravity from the unconstrained SPC analysis, $\log g = 4.50 \pm 0.10$, is in close agreement with the value from asteroseismology. The unconstrained weighted mean of the SPC results from the individual spectra yielded: $T_{\text{eff}} = 5532 \pm 50$ K, $\log g = 4.50 \pm 0.10$, $[\text{m}/\text{H}] = 0.08 \pm 0.08$ and $v \sin i < 2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Imposing a prior on the surface gravity from the asteroseismic analysis yielded the final set of stellar parameters adopted in this paper: $T_{\text{eff}} = 5495 \pm 50$ K, $[\text{m}/\text{H}] = 0.07 \pm 0.08$ and $v \sin i < 2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

We note that the weighted mean of the SPC classifications with a prior on the surface gravity of the multiple HARPS-N spectra is in agreement with the initial SME and SPC analysis in the discovery paper (Gautier et al. 2012) as well as the adopted effective temperature value in the discovery paper. The effective temperature and metallicity values from SPC were used in the asteroseismic analysis presented in the following section.

3.2. Asteroseismic analysis

The power spectrum of Kepler-20 shows low signal-to-noise solar-like oscillations, and as a consequence asteroseismology can be used to infer basic stellar properties (for an introduction to asteroseismology, see for instance Aerts et al. 2010; Chaplin & Miglio 2013). Due to the low signal-to-noise ratio of the oscillations, we could not detect the individual oscillation frequencies, but we were able to determine one of the global properties of the oscillations, namely the large frequency separation.

The large frequency separation is the main regularity of the pulsation pattern visible in a power spectrum. This can be seen from the asymptotic relation (Tassoul 1980). The asymptotic relation gives to a good approximation the frequency of a p mode in a star showing solar-like oscillations as

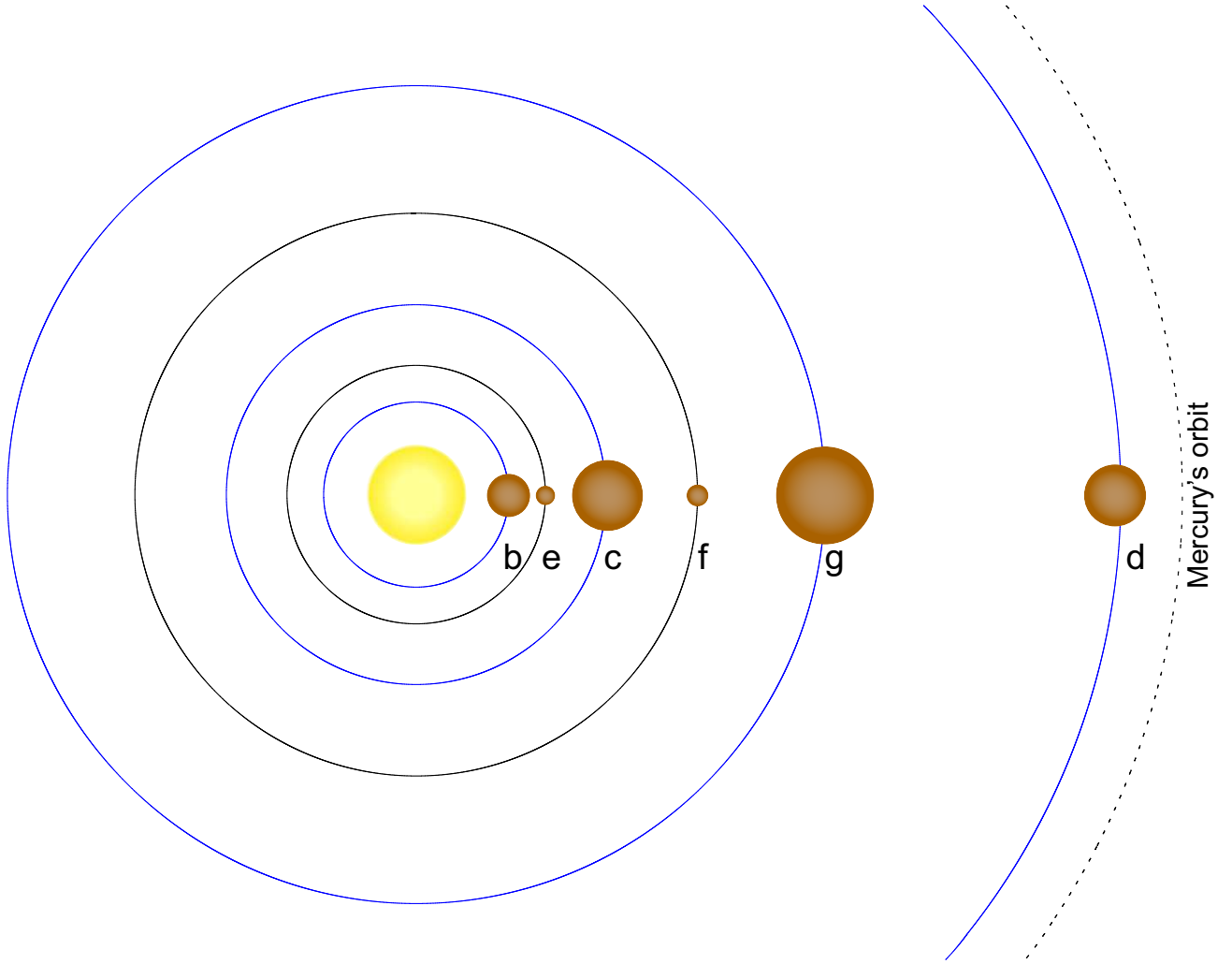


Figure 1. The orbital configuration of the Kepler-20 system, where all the planets are packed within the orbital distance of Mercury. The orbital distances are to scale and the planet sizes are scaled to the correct size relative to each other, but have been increased significantly (The radius of Kepler-20g has been estimated using its mass and assuming a similar composition as Kepler-20c). The blue lines represent the planets with mass measurements.

a function of the radial order (n) and the degree (ℓ) of the mode:

$$\nu_{n,\ell} = \Delta\nu \left(n + \frac{\ell}{2} + \epsilon \right) - \ell(\ell + 1) D_0 . \quad (1)$$

Here, D_0 is a quantity that depends on the sound speed gradient near the core, while ϵ is a parameter of order unity that is sensitive to the near-surface layers, and $\Delta\nu$ is the large frequency separation. The large separation is the inverse of the sound travel time across the star, and it has been shown to

scale with the square root of the stellar mean density; $\Delta\nu \propto \sqrt{\rho}$ (Ulrich 1986; Kjeldsen & Bedding 1995).

We determined the large frequency separation of Kepler-20 using the matched filter response function described by Gilliland et al. (2011). With this technique, the power spectrum is searched for a signal essentially given by the asymptotic relation (see Equation 1) for a range of possible values of the input parameters, including $\Delta\nu$. The result is the value of the matched filter response as a function of the frequency separation, which can be seen in Figure 2. From this it can be found that the large frequency separation of Kepler-20 is $\Delta\nu = 138.9 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{Hz}$, which is the frequency separation where the matched filter response takes its largest value. The 1σ uncertainty has been determined as the full width at half maximum of the peak in the matched filter response.

In order to derive the basic stellar properties, we combined the determined $\Delta\nu$ with the effective temperature and the metallicity of Kepler-20 and used this as input to the grid-modeling code AME (Lundkvist et al. 2014). Using AME we obtained the stellar parameters given in Table 2 (note that AME imposes a lower limit on the uncertainty of the large frequency separation of 1%).

It should be noted, that recently NASA Ames released an erratum concerning approximately half of the short cadence targets observed by Kepler¹, including Kepler-20. The reason for the erratum is that a fundamental error introduced during the calibration of the pixel data was uncovered. The implication for the affected targets is that the data have an increased noise level with the actual increase varying from target to target. The error will be rectified in a future data release, which is consequently expected to improve the signal-to-noise ratio in the power spectrum of Kepler-20. Since the long cadence data for the same targets are not altered by the discovered error, it is possible to get an estimate of the magnitude of the effect by comparing the long cadence and short cadence

¹ the erratum can be found at <http://keplerscience.arc.nasa.gov/data/documentation/KSCI-19080-002.pdf>

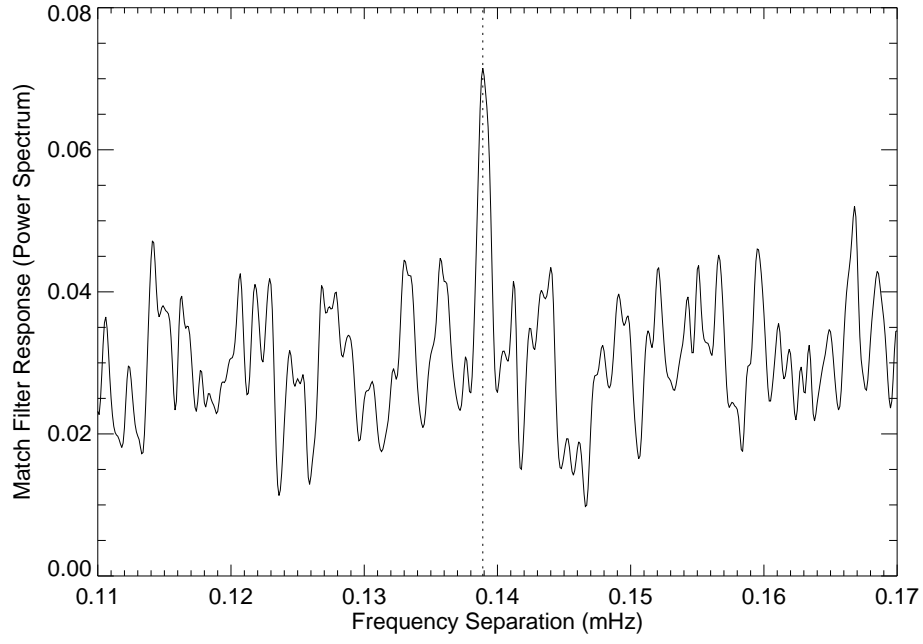


Figure 2. Value of the matched filter response as a function of the large frequency separation. The peak at $138.9 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{Hz}$ (marked by the black dotted line) gives the frequency separation found in Kepler-20.

pixel data. We have done this for representative examples of data from Kepler-20, and we estimate the error to only have a mild impact on the power spectrum of Kepler-20. However, there is little doubt that with the re-processed data, we will be able to obtain a more significant detection of the solar-like oscillations in Kepler-20. The new data will be available in the second half of 2016.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE *KEPLER* PHOTOMETRY

[Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#) and [Fressin et al. \(2012\)](#) presented properties of the Kepler-20 planets based on analyses of the first two years of *Kepler* photometry. Although Kepler-20 was observed at short cadence (integration time per data point of 58.8 s) beginning in Q3, [Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#) conducted their analysis using the Q1-Q8 long-cadence photometry (29.426 min integration time) to reduce the computational burden of the analysis. Although fitting the long-cadence photometry is more computationally efficient, the relatively long integration time smears out the shape of planetary transits and increases the degeneracy between parameters in the resulting transit fit. In contrast, short-cadence photometry better reveals the morphology of transits, particularly the duration and slope of ingress and egress. Consequently, we performed our transit fits using the full set of short-cadence light curves. These light curves were obtained during Q3 - Q17 (18 September 2009 - 7 May 2013) and are divided into 44 separate files with baselines of approximately one month.

We prepared the data for transit fits by first normalizing each light curve by its median and combining them to form a single time series. We then extracted small segments of the light curve centered around each planetary transit and normalized them using a linear fit to the out-of-transit data. Specifically, we assumed the transit centers and durations reported in the NASA Exoplanet Archive and used least squares minimization to fit a line to the observations acquired 1 – 3 transit durations away from the expected transit center. Prior to extracting the transits for each planet, we removed the segments of the light curve containing the transits of the other planets in the system.

We rejected transits for which the remaining data coverage was too sparse due to data gaps or the removal of other planetary transits. Our resulting light curve segments contained 308 transits for Kepler-20b, 105 transits for Kepler-20c, 9 transits for Kepler-20d, 188 transits for Kepler-20e, and 58 transits for Kepler-20f.

Next, we used a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) analysis to refine the parameters of each planet. Our analysis varied the following parameters: orbital period, P ; time of transit center, t_0 ; planet-to-star radius ratio, R_p/R_\star ; semimajor-axis-to-stellar-radius ratio, a/R_\star ; planetary orbital inclination, i ; eccentricity, e ; argument of periastron, ω ; and two limb darkening parameters, q_1 and q_2 , which constrained a quadratic limb darkening law in the manner of [Kipping \(2014b\)](#). Rather than vary e and ω directly, we reparameterized e and ω into two alternative variables. For all planets, we used the ECCSAMPLES package ([Kipping 2014a](#)) to transform two uniform variates (x_e , x_ω) into (e, ω) pairs drawn from a Beta distribution describing the eccentricity distribution of transiting exoplanets ([Kipping 2013, 2014a](#)).

In all cases, we incorporated uniform priors of $0.1 < P < 200$ d, $100 < t_0 < 200$ BKJD, $0 < R_p/R_\star < 0.1$, $70^\circ < i < 90^\circ$, $0 < q_1 < 1$, and $0 < q_2 < 1$. We constrained the a/R_\star values by imposing gaussian priors set by the asteroseismic stellar density estimate ([Seager & Mallén-Ornelas 2003](#); [Sozzetti et al. 2007](#); [Torres et al. 2008](#); [Ballard et al. 2014](#)) and restricted the eccentricities to $\leq 0.3, \leq 0.17, \leq 0.28, \leq 0.28$, and ≤ 0.32 for planets b, c, d, e, and f, respectively, to comply with the stability constraints described in Section 7 and prevent overlapping orbits. Relaxing these upper limits does not significantly change the resulting planet radii.

We performed the light curve fits in python by employing the `emcee` Affine-Invariant MCMC ensemble sampler package ([Fortney et al. 2013](#)) to run MCMC and the `BATMAN` package ([Kreidberg 2015](#)) to generate light curves using analytic models ([Mandel & Agol 2002](#)). We adopted the values provided on the NASA Exoplanet Archive as initial guesses and initialized the MCMC walkers in

tight Gaussian distributions surrounding the initial solution. We used 200 – 500 walkers per analysis and ran the chains for 13,000 – 45,000 steps. We discarded the initial 400 – 10000 steps of each chain as “burn-in” and followed the guidance of Fortney et al. (2013) by running the chains for 20 – 110 times longer than the autocorrelation time to ensure that the chains were well-mixed. Our best-fit solutions for each planet are provided in Table 3 & 4 and displayed in Figure 3; we report the modes of the posterior distributions as the best-fit values and set the errors to encompass 68% of the values within each distribution.

In the previous analyses (Gautier et al. 2012; Fressin et al. 2012), the reported radii of the planets were $1.91^{+0.12}_{-0.21} R_{\oplus}$ (Kepler-20b), $3.07^{+0.20}_{-0.31} R_{\oplus}$ (Kepler-20c), $2.75^{+0.17}_{-0.30} R_{\oplus}$ (Kepler-20d), $0.868^{+0.074}_{-0.096} R_{\oplus}$ (Kepler-20e), and $1.03^{+0.10}_{-0.13} R_{\oplus}$ (Kepler-20f). In comparison, our new fits are $1.868^{+0.066}_{-0.034} R_{\oplus}$, $3.047^{+0.064}_{-0.056} R_{\oplus}$, $2.744^{+0.073}_{-0.055} R_{\oplus}$, $0.864^{+0.026}_{-0.028} R_{\oplus}$, and $1.003^{+0.050}_{-0.089} R_{\oplus}$, respectively. These values are consistent with the previous estimates, but the new errors are smaller by factors of 1.5 – 6.2.

4.1. Investigating the Presence of Transit Timing Variations

Given the likely presence of a sixth, massive and non-transiting planet in the Kepler-20 system, we conducted a search for transit timing variations (TTVs) to test whether this non-transiting planet (or another planet in the system) might be perturbing the transit times of planets b, c, d, e, and f. We searched for TTVs by generating model light curves based on the best-fit parameters given in Table 3 & 4 and comparing each individual transit event to the corresponding model light curve. Holding all other parameters constant, we varied the time of transit over a fine grid of values extending from 90 minutes early until 90 minutes late and recorded the transit center that minimized the chi-squared of the model fit. We then assigned errors on our estimated transit times by determining the range of transit centers that yielded $\Delta\chi^2 < 1$ compared to the best-fit solution. None of the planets displayed coherent TTVs. The non-detection of periodic TTVs in our data is consistent with the earlier null

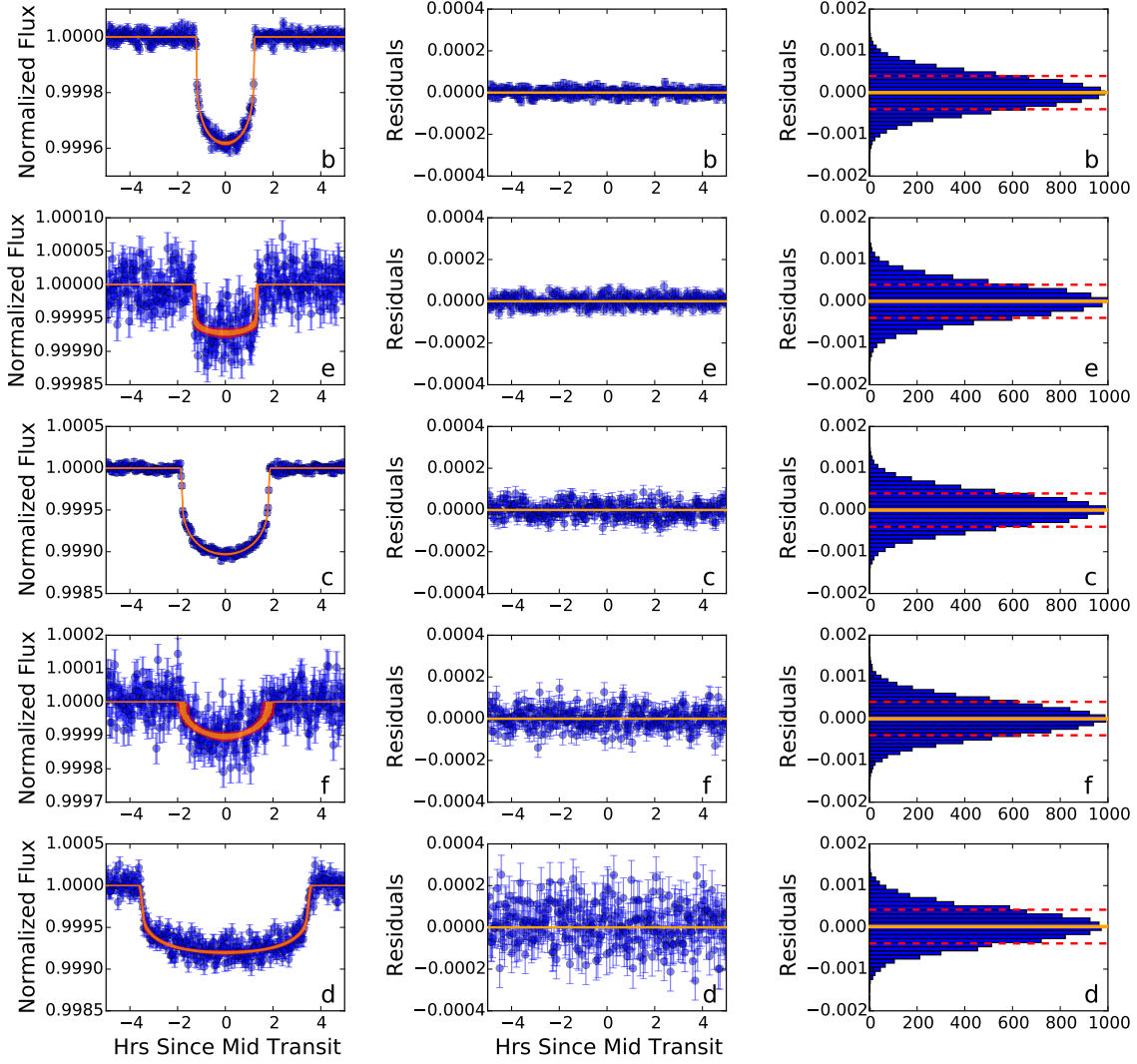


Figure 3. Phase-folded light curves (left panels), phase-folded residuals (center panels), and histograms of residuals (right panels) for fits to transits of Kepler-20b (top), 20e (second from top), 20c (middle), 20f (second from bottom), and 20d (bottom). In the left and middle panels, the blue data points are short cadence data binned to a 2-minute intervals. The shaded lines in the left panel indicate the 1σ (red) and 3σ (orange) confidence flux intervals for our best-fit solutions. In the middle panel, the red line marks zero residuals. In the right panels, the solid orange line mark the median values and the dashed red lines indicate the 16th and 84th percentile of the distributions. The residual histogram was constructed using the individual short cadence data points (not the binned values plotted in the left and middle panels). The vertical scales are different for each planet in the left panel, but standardized for the residuals plots in the middle and right panels.

result by [Gautier et al. \(2012\)](#).

5. ANALYSIS OF THE RADIAL VELOCITY DATA

In this section, we describe our analysis of the combined RV data from HARPS-N and HIRES totaling 134 observations gathered from 2009 to 2015. There are five transiting planets in the Kepler-20 system, however, the two smallest planets, Kepler-20e and Kepler-20f, have sizes below that of the Earth. Even when assuming a rocky composition, which would maximize the resulting RV signal, the estimated semi-amplitudes of these two planets are 18 cm s^{-1} and 19 cm s^{-1} , respectively, which is well below the threshold at which we can detect orbital motion. Therefore, we do not include these two planets in our RV analysis.

The estimated age of the system of 7.6 ± 3.7 Gyr from asteroseismology implies a low stellar activity level. The Ca II HK chromospheric activity index, which is a good indicator for the activity level of solar type stars, yields an average value of $\log(R'_{\text{HK}}) = -4.88 \pm 0.07$. This is similar to the mean activity index of the Sun, which varies between -5.0 and -4.8. Observations of the Sun as a star show an RV RMS of a few meter per second ([Haywood et al. 2016](#)), and we do therefore not expect, with the RV precision reached on HARPS-N and HIRES for this faint target, that stellar signals strongly affect our RV measurements. We observe no significant correlation between the radial velocities and the FWHM of the cross correlation function, the bisector span or the Ca II HK index.

The analysis of the photometric data from Kepler in Section 4 yields very precise constraints on the periods and transit epoch of the transiting planets in the system. It is clear that the period and time of transit are constrained by the photometry itself and the 134 RV data points do not improve the determination of these parameters. Thus, we fit the RV data separately, using the strong priors on the periods and times of transit from the photometry.

We fitted a model with three Keplerian signals, one for each of the three larger transiting planets

(Kepler-20b, Kepler-20c and Kepler-20d), an RV offset for each instrument (HARPS-N and HIRES) and a jitter term for each instrument to account for instrumental systematics not included for in the formal uncertainties and/or stellar induced astrophysical noise. Each planet j is characterized by its semi-amplitude K_j , period P_j , time of transit $T_{c,j}$, eccentricity e_j and argument of periastron ω_j . The time of transit was shifted to coincide with the average date of the RV observations in order to minimize error propagation from the uncertainty on the periods. Rather than using eccentricity and argument of periastron as free parameters, we used $\sqrt{e_j} \cos \omega_j$ and $\sqrt{e_j} \sin \omega_j$ as free parameters allowing for a more efficient exploration of parameters space at small eccentricities (Ford 2006).

We explored the parameter space using a Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo analysis with a Metropolis-Hastings acceptance criterion. The jitter terms were incorporated into the likelihood function as in Dumusque et al. (2014) and Dressing et al. (2015). We imposed Gaussian priors on period and time of transit set by the photometric analysis in Section 4 and used uniform priors on all other free parameters. Furthermore, we required that jitter and semi-amplitude values must be positive and we constrained the eccentricity to be $0 \leq e < 1$. We performed a “burn-in” by running the chain for 10^6 steps and saved subsequent steps. From the posteriors, we selected the mode of each parameters and assigned uncertainties encompassing 68% of the posterior closest to the adopted best fit value. After fitting the three transiting planets, we examined the residual RVs to check for any systematic deviations from the fitted solution. Figure 4 shows a periodogram of the residual RVs (black line). A strong peak is clearly visible at ~ 35 days, indicating the presence of another body in the system or stellar activity caused by spot modulation at the stellar rotational period. As we demonstrate in Section 6, there is strong evidence that the residual RV signal is caused by a non-transiting planet in the system and not by stellar activity. We therefore denote this planet Kepler-20g and return to the argument for its planetary nature in Section 6. Kepler-20g has an orbital distance that places its orbit in the gap between Kepler-20f and Kepler-20d (see Figure 1).

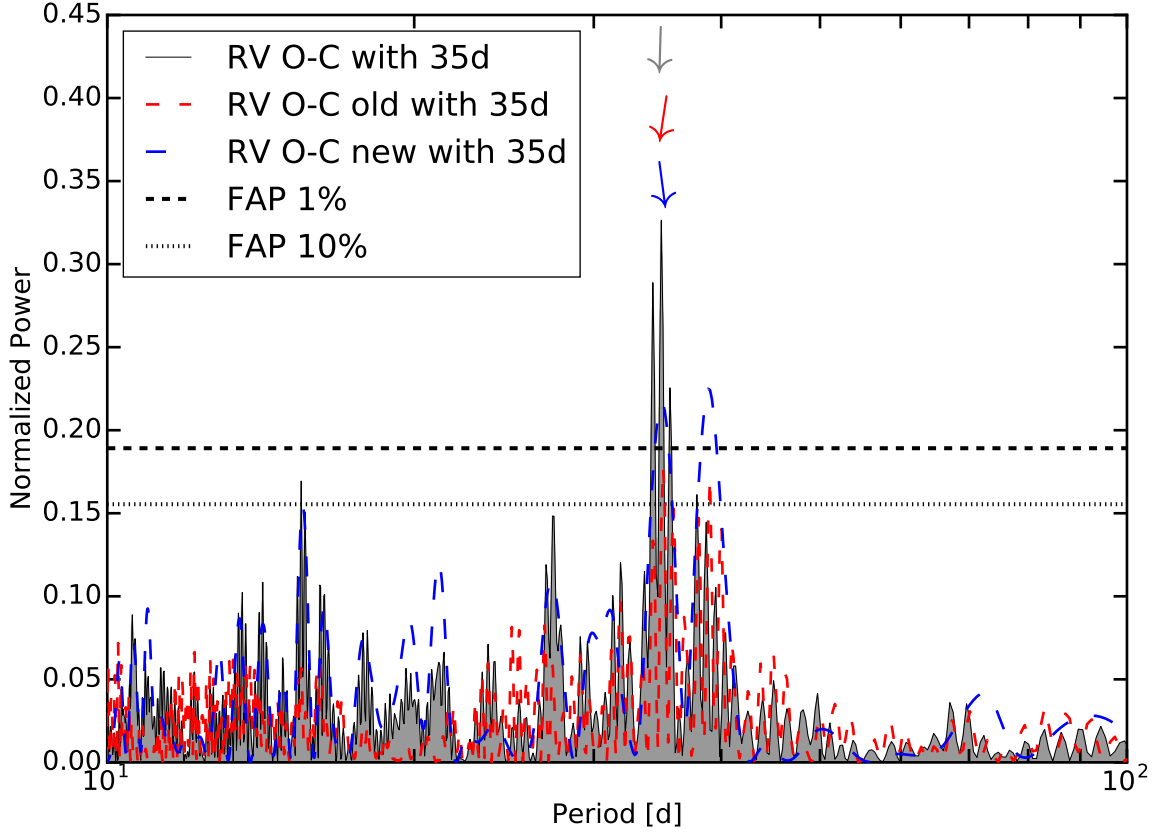


Figure 4. GLS periodogram of the RV residuals (O–C) after removing our best fit for Kepler-20b, c, and d. The black shaded periodogram corresponds to the analysis of the entire data set, while the red and blue periodograms correspond to the first and second halves of the data, respectively. The small arrows above the 35-day peak show the phase of the signal, which can rotate by 360 degrees depending on the phase. The phase of the first and second halves of the data are compatible and also compatible with the phase found for the entire data set. Therefore, the 35-day signal retains its phase as a function of time, which is expected for a planet. The top and bottom horizontal lines correspond to a FAP level of 1% and 10%, respectively

To account for this non-transiting planet, we performed a MCMC analysis as before, but added an additional Keplerian signal, three of which have Gaussian priors on period and time of transit and the fourth with uniform priors. The analysis yielded a minimum mass for Kepler-20g of $\sim 21 M_{\oplus}$ slightly larger than Neptune in our own Solar System.

The Kepler-20 system is quite compact with 6 planets all packed within the orbital distance of Mercury and in order for the system to be stable over long timescales, we would naively expect

the planets to have rather moderate eccentricities. Since the constraints on the eccentricities of the planets from the RV analysis is weak, we performed a stability analysis of the system using N-body simulations. The result of the analysis, described in detail in Section 7, is that the system is indeed stable over long timescales, if the eccentricities of the planets are low. We can use these eccentricity constraints to impose priors on the eccentricities in the RV analysis. We therefore performed a final MCMC analysis of the RVs imposing priors on the eccentricities of planets Kepler-20c, Kepler-20d and Kepler-20g of $e_c \leq 0.17$, $e_d \leq 0.28$ and $e_g \leq 0.16$ (see Section 7 for details). These constraints are compatible with the eccentricities derived from the RV analysis with uniform priors on the eccentricities, within their uncertainties.

The resulting planetary parameters for the system are detailed in Table 4 and the masses and radii of the Kepler-20 planets are shown in a mass-radius diagram in Figure 5. We find the masses of the planets to be $M_{p,b} = 9.70^{+1.41}_{-1.44} M_{\oplus}$ (14.7%), $M_{p,c} = 12.75^{+2.17}_{-2.24} M_{\oplus}$ (17.3%), $M_{p,d} = 10.07^{+3.97}_{-3.70} M_{\oplus}$ (38.1%) and $M_{p,g} = 19.96^{+3.08}_{-3.61} M_{\oplus}$ (16.7%) (values in parentheses indicate the precision). Both Kepler-20d and Kepler-20c have densities consistent with a composition comprising a core with an extended H/He atmosphere or a significant fraction of volatiles. However, Kepler-20b has a density consistent with a bare rocky terrestrial composition without volatiles or a H/He atmosphere, despite its relatively large size of $\sim 1.9 R_{\oplus}$. The non-transiting planet, Kepler-20g, has a minimum mass similar to Neptune.

To test whether the system configuration of the fits had any influence on the measured masses, we ran the RV MCMC analysis with the following configurations: a 3 planet model imposing circular orbits, a 3 planet model with uniform priors on the eccentricities, a 4 planet model imposing circular orbits, a 4 planet model with uniform priors on the eccentricities and finally a 4 planet model with priors on the eccentricities imposed by the stability analysis in Section 7 (the adopted analysis). The resulting masses of all the planets in all these various configurations are compatible within their

one-sigma uncertainties. The system parameters, including the planet masses, are also compatible within the one-sigma uncertainties if we include the 21 rejected RV gathered under poor observing conditions with internal uncertainties greater than 5 m s^{-1} .

In order to evaluate whether a 3 or 4 planet model is preferred, we fixed the jitter terms to the values reported in the next paragraph and computed the Bayesian Information Criterion for the 3 and 4 planet models. We find a $\Delta\text{BIC} = 7.0$, indicating that including the non-transiting planet is the preferred model. We chose to adopt the 4 planet model with priors on the eccentricities from the stability analysis because of the strong evidence for the non-transiting planet presented in Section 6 and the stability arguments in Section 7.

The jitter terms for the two instruments are similar with a HARPS-N jitter term of $3.93^{+0.52}_{-0.46} \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and a HIRES jitter term of $3.23^{+0.68}_{-0.90} \text{ m s}^{-1}$. The average internal errors are slightly lower for HIRES (3.04 m s^{-1}) compared to HARPS-N (3.66 m s^{-1}), which is similarly seen for in the average uncertainties including jitter of (4.45 m s^{-1}) for HIRES and (5.39 m s^{-1}) for HARPS-N. We attribute the lower uncertainties of the HIRES RVs to the significantly higher SNR of these spectra (over 400% higher SNR than the HARPS-N spectra).

Table 3. Transit parameters for planets with no mass measurements

Parameter	Kepler-20e	Kepler-20f
P (days)	$6.09852281^{+0.00000608}_{-0.00001351}$	$19.57758478^{+0.00009037}_{-0.00012256}$
T_c (BJD - 2,454,000)	$968.931544^{+0.002223}_{-0.000732}$	$968.207060^{+0.006076}_{-0.004332}$
R_p/R_\star	$0.00822^{+0.00020}_{-0.00021}$	$0.00952^{+0.00044}_{-0.00083}$
a/R_\star	$14.26^{+0.42}_{-0.32}$	$31.15^{+0.81}_{-0.79}$

Table 3 continued on next page

Table 3 (*continued*)

Parameter	Kepler-20e	Kepler-20f
i (deg)	$87.632^{+1.085}_{-0.128}$	$88.788^{+0.426}_{-0.072}$
q_1	0.045 ± 0.188	$0.995^{+0.068}_{-0.466}$
q_2	0.015 ± 0.457	$0.765^{+0.110}_{-0.444}$
$R_p(R_\oplus)$	$0.865^{+0.026}_{-0.028}$	$1.003^{+0.050}_{-0.089}$
R_p error (%)	3.1%	6.9%
Semi-major axis a (AU)	$0.0639^{+0.0019}_{-0.0014}$	$0.1396^{+0.0036}_{-0.0035}$

NOTE—The values reported are the modes of the posterior distribution and the errors encompass the 68% of data points closest to the mode values. Planet radius estimates assume a stellar radius of $R_\star = 0.9639R_\odot \pm 0.0177$.

Table 4. Planet parameters for planets with mass determinations

Parameter	Kepler-20b	Kepler-20c	Kepler-20g	Kepler-20d
Orbital period P (days)	$3.69611525^{+0.00000115}_{-0.00000087}$	$10.85409089^{+0.00000303}_{-0.00000260}$	$34.940^{+0.038}_{-0.035}$	$77.61130017^{+0.00012305}_{-0.00011588}$
T_C (BJD - 2,454,000)	$967.502014^{+0.000253}_{-0.000217}$	$971.607955^{+0.000248}_{-0.000202}$	$967.50027^{+0.00058}_{-0.00068}$	$997.730300^{+0.001179}_{-0.001577}$
R_p/R_\star	$0.01774^{+0.00053}_{-0.00003}$	$0.02895^{+0.00029}_{-0.00006}$	...	$0.02607^{+0.00050}_{-0.00021}$
a/R_\star	$10.34^{+0.20}_{-0.32}$	$21.17^{+0.59}_{-0.51}$	...	$78.23^{+1.80}_{-2.25}$
q_1	$0.427^{+0.120}_{-0.051}$	$0.393^{+0.060}_{-0.038}$	...	$0.377^{+0.188}_{-0.084}$
q_2	$0.295^{+0.134}_{-0.078}$	$0.408^{+0.052}_{-0.069}$	...	$0.205^{+0.233}_{-0.083}$
Orbital inclination i (deg)	$87.355^{+0.215}_{-1.594}$	$89.815^{+0.036}_{-0.632}$	...	$89.708^{+0.165}_{-0.053}$
Orbital eccentricity e	$0.03^{+0.09}_{-0.03}$	$0.16^{+0.01}_{-0.09}$	$0.15^{+0.01}_{-0.10}$	...
$\sqrt{e} \sin \omega$	$-0.13^{+0.26}_{-0.27}$	$0.29^{+0.10}_{-0.26}$	$0.15^{+0.12}_{-0.31}$	...
$\sqrt{e} \cos \omega$	$0.01^{+0.12}_{-0.22}$	$0.26^{+0.11}_{-0.22}$	$0.23^{+0.11}_{-0.29}$	...
Orbital semi-amplitude K (m s $^{-1}$)	$4.20^{+0.55}_{-0.65}$	$3.84^{+0.67}_{-0.63}$	$4.10^{+0.61}_{-0.72}$	$1.57^{+0.62}_{-0.57}$

Table 4 continued on next page

Table 4 (*continued*)

Parameter	Kepler-20b	Kepler-20c	Kepler-20g	Kepler-20d
Mass $M_p(M_\oplus)$	$9.70^{+1.41}_{-1.44}$	$12.75^{+2.17}_{-2.24}$	$19.96^{+3.08}_{-3.61}{}^a$	$10.07^{+3.97}_{-3.70}$
Mass M_p error (%)	14.7%	17.3%	16.7%	38.1%
Radius $R_p(R_\oplus)$	$1.868^{+0.066}_{-0.034}$	$3.047^{+0.064}_{-0.056}$	...	$2.744^{+0.073}_{-0.055}$
Radius R_p error (%)	2.7%	2.0%	...	2.3%
Planet density $\rho_p(\text{g cm}^{-3})$	$8.2^{+1.5}_{-1.3}$	$2.5^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$	...	$2.7^{+1.1}_{-1.0}$
Orbital semi-major axis a (AU)	$0.0463^{+0.0009}_{-0.0015}$	$0.0949^{+0.0027}_{-0.0023}$	$0.2055^{+0.0022}_{-0.0021}$	$0.3506^{+0.0081}_{-0.0101}$
Equilibrium temperature T_{eq} (K) ^b	1105 ± 37	772 ± 26	524 ± 12	401 ± 13

^a Minimum mass ($m \sin i$), since the inclination of the orbit of Kepler-20g is not known.

^b Assuming a Bond albedo of 0.3.

6. THE NON-TRANSITING PLANET Kepler-20G

In this section we argue that the planetary interpretation of the 35 day signal is more likely than a stellar activity interpretation. We measured the rotation period of Kepler-20 from the Kepler PDC-SAP light curves using an autocorrelation function (ACF) analysis (e.g. [McQuillan et al. 2013](#)). We calculated the ACF for the full dataset (quarters 1-17) and found a strong peak at a period of 27.6 days (see Figure 7). The signal near 27.6 days is persistent – we divided the dataset in two, repeated the autocorrelation analysis on each half of the light curve, and found a peak at 27.0 days in the first half and a peak at 27.7 days in the second half. We interpret this 27.6 day signal as being caused by active regions on the stellar surface, and measure the rotation period of Kepler-20 to be 27.6 ± 0.5 days. Furthermore, a periodogram of the FWHM measurements of the CCF function shows significant power at 27 days, indicating a stellar rotational period similar to that found from the photometry.

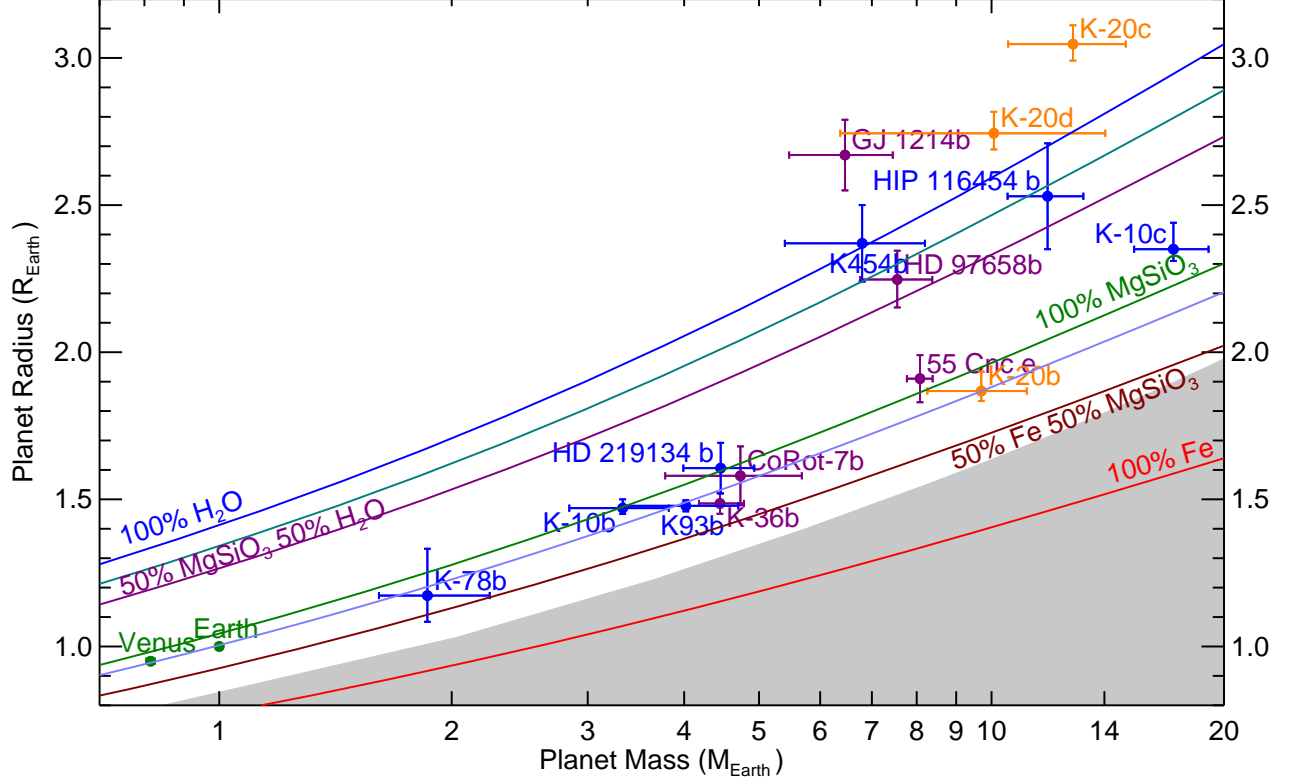


Figure 5. Mass-radius diagram for planets smaller than $3.2 R_{\oplus}$ with mass determinations better than 30% precision. The gray region to the lower right indicate the region where planets would have an iron content exceeding the maximum value predicted from models of collisional stripping (Marcus et al. 2010). The solid curves are theoretical models for planet with a composition consisting of 100% water (blue), 25% silicate and 75% water (turquoise), 50% silicate and 50% water (magenta), 100% silicate (green), 70% silicate and 30% iron consistent with an Earth like composition (light blue), 50% silicate and 50% iron (brown) and 100% iron (red) (Zeng & Sasselov 2013). The blue points indicate planets with masses measured using the HARPS-N spectrograph, purple points are from other sources and the orange points are the Kepler-20 system with masses determined in this paper.

We believe it is unlikely that the period of the additional RV signal at 35 days is consistent with the stellar rotation period. The HIRES radial velocity data were taken concurrently with Kepler observations (during the first half of the full Kepler dataset). During this time, active regions on the stellar surface gave rise to a signal with a period of 27.0 days in the flux time series, while the additional RV signal (which was detected in the HIRES data alone) has a period of 35 days.

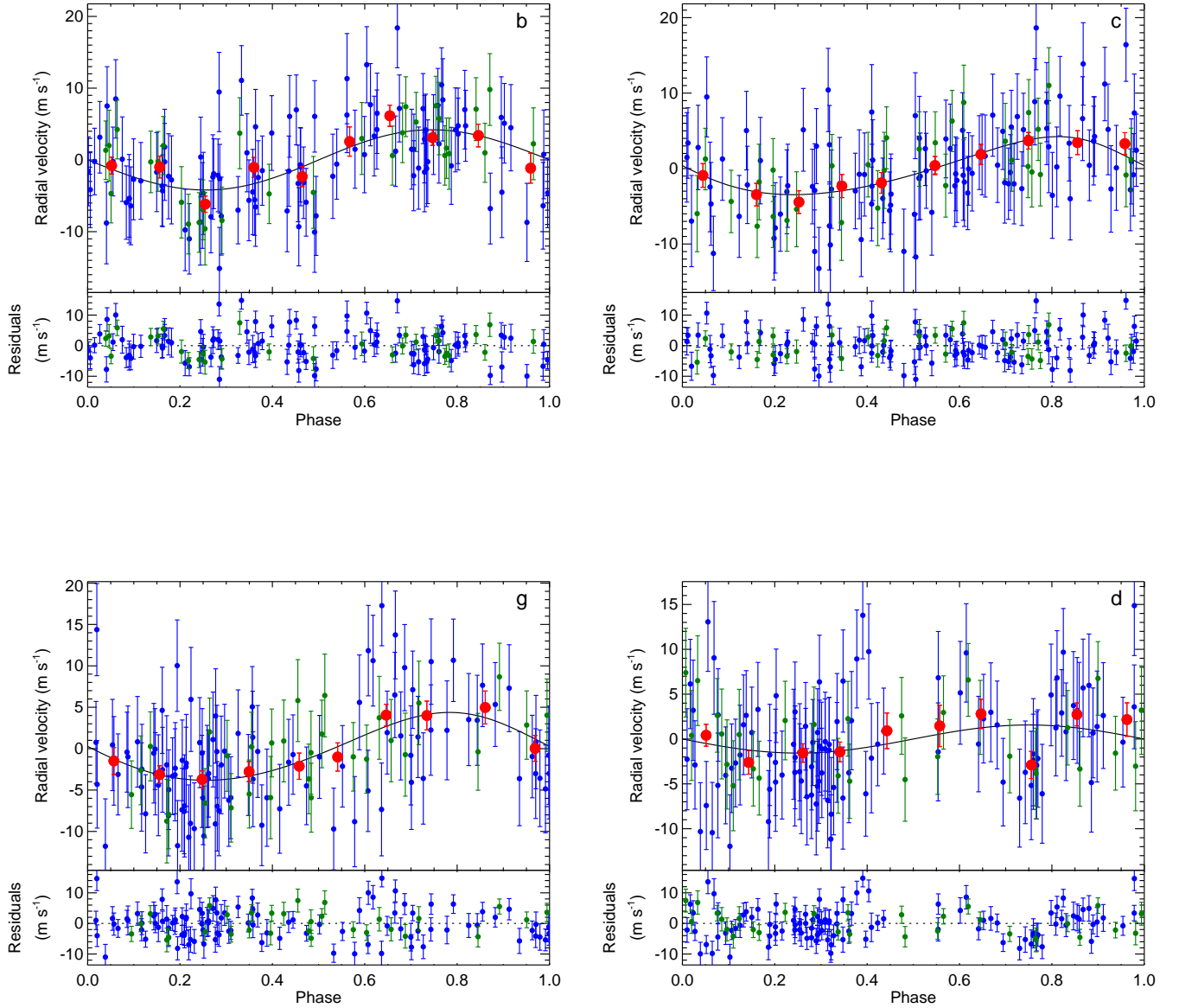


Figure 6. The best-fit model (black solid curve) to the HARPS-N (blue points) and HIRES (green points) radial velocities, when considering a model composed of the three largest transiting planets and the non-transiting planet in the Kepler-20 system. Each top panel show the phase-folder RVs after removing the orbital motion of the remaining planets. The red points show the weighted mean of the RVs binned to equal interval in phase. Each bottom panel shown the RV residuals after removing the full orbital fit. The four plots show the orbital fit for Kepler-20b (top-left), Kepler-20c (top-right), Kepler-20g (bottom-left), Kepler-20d (bottom-right).

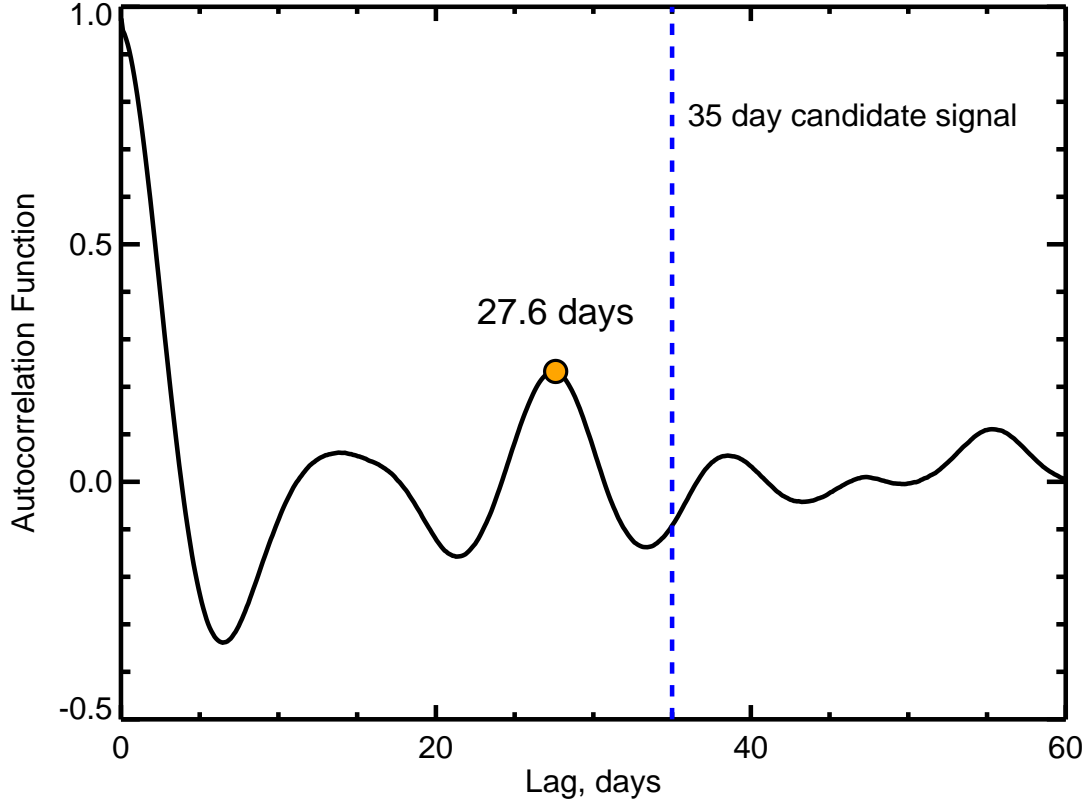


Figure 7. Autocorrelation function of the Kepler-20 light curve. There is a peak in the autocorrelation function at 27.6 days, which we interpret as the stellar rotation period. This is significantly different from the 35 day period of the RV variations which we interpret as a new non-transiting planet (shown as a blue dashed line).

These periods differ by 20%, and the ACF shows only a weak (negative) correlation between flux measurements taken 35 days apart.

However, in order to provide further evidence for the planetary nature of the signal, we perform further tests to show that it is not related to stellar activity. To do so, we removed the signature of Kepler-20b, c, and d from the RVs, using our best fit, leaving only the 35-day signal. We then split the RV measurements in two equal chunks and estimated the generalized Lomb-Scargle (GLS) periodogram (Zechmeister & Kürster 2009) for each of these chunks. Note that the power in a GLS periodogram depends on the sampling and the total time-span of the data. Therefore, to be able to compare the signals found in the two chunks, we needed to keep the same sampling and timespan.

For each chunk, we therefore kept the RV measurements outside of the chunk, but fixed their value to zero, with error bars of 100 m s^{-1} . A similar analysis was performed for $\alpha \text{ Cen Bb}$ (Dumusque et al. 2012) and Kepler-10 (Dumusque et al. 2014). In Figure 4, we show the periodogram for each chunk of data (blue and red) and the GLS periodogram for the entire data set (gray). The signal at 35 days is seen in the first and second halves of the data, which is expected for a signal induced by a planet or by stellar activity if 35 days is the stellar rotation period. However, when looking at the phase of the signal, illustrated in Figure 4 by small arrows above the 35-day peak, it is clear that the signal has the same phase in each chunk. Furthermore, this phase is consistent with the phase derived when analyzing the entire data set. The signal thus retains the same phase from season to season, which is a strong argument in favor of the planetary origin of the signal. A signal due to stellar activity would change its phase because of the evolution of active region configuration on the stellar surface.

To further assess the strength of the detection of the non-transiting planet, we calculated the SNR of the semi-amplitude of the signal for subsamples of the data. We first performed the Bayesian General Lomb-Scargle periodogram (BGLS; Mortier et al. 2015) on the full dataset. The strongest period in the BGLS, which assumes a circular orbit, is 34.27 days. We then created subsamples of the data, starting with the first 30 data points and always adding one more data point. For each subsample, and fixing the period to 34.27 days, we found the best jitter term, by calculating the maximum log likelihood of the model for a set of jitter values (spaced with 0.1 m s^{-1}). Using this jitter term, we derived optimal scaling estimates for the semi-amplitude K and its variance σ_K^2 , ultimately giving the SNR of the signal over time: K/σ_K . From Figure 8, it can be seen that the SNR roughly scales as a square root, as to be expected for a coherent signal in the data.

In summary, the tests described in this section strongly indicate that the signal at ~ 35 days is of planetary nature and we therefore conclude that a non-transiting planet is present in the system

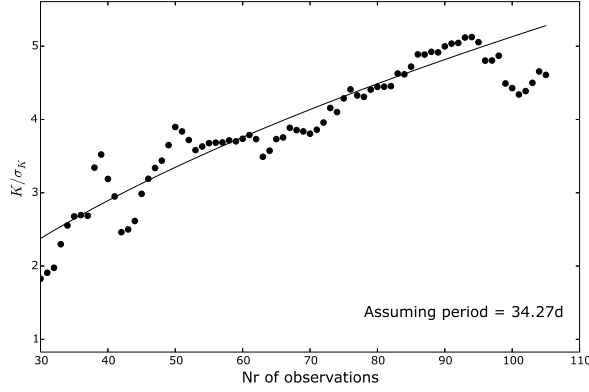


Figure 8. SNR of the semi-amplitude for a signal with period $P = 34.27$ days (assuming a circular orbit) versus number of data points. The solid line represents a square root function with $y = 0.61\sqrt{x} - 0.96$ (best fit to the data).

with a period of $34.940^{+0.038}_{-0.035}$ days.

7. STABILITY ANALYSIS

To investigate the stability of the Kepler-20 system, we carried out pure N-body simulations using *mercury6* (Chambers 1999). We also carried out some tests using a 4th order Hermite integrator (Makino & Aarseth 1992), but the results from this were consistent with those from *mercury6*, and so we report here only the results from the *mercury6* simulations. We considered all 6 bodies, Kepler-20b, c, d, e, f, and g, orbiting a central star with mass $M_{\star} = 0.948 \pm 0.051 M_{\odot}$. The masses of Kepler-20b, c, d and g are taken from Table 4, while Kepler-20e is assumed to have a mass of $M_p = 0.65 M_{\oplus}$ and Kepler-20f is assumed to have a mass of $M_p = 1.0 M_{\oplus}$.

The initial semi-major axes are the same as in Table 4, and the system is assumed to be co-planar. The separation between adjacent planets, normalized to the mutual Hill radius, lies between 13 and 20, suggesting that the system lies outside the empirical stability limit of ~ 10 (Chambers et al. 1996; Yoshinaga et al. 1999), and should therefore be long-term stable if the eccentricities are sufficiently small. In our first test, we set the initial eccentricity for Kepler-20b to $e_b = 0.03$ and set all the other eccentricities to $e = 0$. With these initial conditions, the system is indeed stable for $t > 10^7$ years

($> 5 \times 10^8$ orbits of Kepler-20d).

For Kepler-20c, the system is stable for eccentricities of $e_c \leq 0.17$, for Kepler-20g the system is stable for eccentricities of $e_g \leq 0.16$, while for Kepler-20d the system is stable for at eccentricities of $e_d \leq 0.28$. Essentially, Kepler-20c and Kepler-20g appear to be constrained to have eccentricities well below $e = 0.2$, while Kepler-20d may have an eccentricity as high as $e \sim 0.3$.

We also considered scenarios where we varied the eccentricities of more than one of the planets. We, again, ran the simulations for 10^7 years (5×10^8 orbits of Kepler-20d). If Kepler-20c has an eccentricity of $e_c = 0.1$, then the system is only stable if Kepler-20g has an eccentricity of $e_g \leq 0.11$. If Kepler-20g has an eccentricity of $e_g = 0.1$ then the system is only stable if Kepler-20c has an eccentricity of $e_c \leq 0.11$. If both Kepler-20c and Kepler-20g have eccentricities of $e_{c,g} = 0.1$, then the system is stable if Kepler-20d has an eccentricity of $e_d \leq 0.22$. As expected, if the eccentricities are non-zero, then the range of eccentricities for which the system is stable is reduced.

We should acknowledge that we haven't run these simulations for longer than 10^7 years. Hence, the system could still be unstable for the eccentricity values we present here and, consequently, these should be regarded as upper limits. However, they do indicate that the eccentricities of Kepler-20c and g are likely to be constrained to be less than $e \sim 0.2$, while the eccentricity of Kepler-20d could be higher, but only if the others have relatively low eccentricities ($e \sim 0.1$ or less).

Overall, the stability analysis appears to suggest that Kepler-20 is consistent with being a dynamically cold system in which the eccentricities and inclinations are small (Dawson et al. 2016), and that probably formed in the transition phase when the disc had a high solid surface density, but a low to moderate gas surface density (Lee & Chiang 2016).

8. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

We have revisited the mass determination of the planets in the Kepler-20 system. With a significantly increased number of RV measurements, an updated photometric analysis of the Kepler light curve, and an asteroseismic analysis of the parameters of the host stars, we present mass measurements of the three larger planets in the Kepler-20 system as well as the detection of a non-transiting planet. With the refined analyses, we are able to reduce the uncertainty of the mass measurement of Kepler-20b to less than 15%. Kepler-20b has a mass of $M_{P,b} = 9.70^{+1.41}_{-1.44} M_{\oplus}$ (14.7%) and a radius of $R_{P,b} = 1.868^{+0.066}_{-0.034} R_{\oplus}$ yielding a bulk density of $\rho_b = 8.2^{+1.5}_{-1.3} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$. The precision allows us to conclude that Kepler-20b has a composition consistent with a rocky terrestrial composition despite its large radius ($\sim 1.9 R_{\oplus}$). We also report the masses of Kepler-20c and Kepler-20d ($M_{p,c} = 12.75^{+2.17}_{-2.24} M_{\oplus}$ (17.3%), $M_{p,d} = 10.07^{+3.97}_{-3.70} M_{\oplus}$ (38.1%)) yielding densities indicating the presence of volatiles and/or a H/He atmosphere.

Furthermore, we report the detection of a non-transiting planet in the system (Kepler-20g) with a minimum mass similar to that of Neptune ($M_{p,g} = 19.96^{+3.08}_{-3.61} M_{\oplus}$ (16.7%)). The orbital configuration of the Kepler-20 system has a rather larger gap between Kepler-20f and Kepler-20d in which Kepler-20g is situated with an orbital period of ~ 35 days. In Section 6 we find strong evidence for the signal at ~ 35 days to be of planetary nature and not the result of stellar activity caused by spot modulation at the stellar rotational period.

Kepler-20b is thus the first definite example of a rocky exoplanet with a mass above $5 M_{\oplus}$ and a radius larger than $1.6 R_{\oplus}$. This is seemingly at odds with the prediction that most $1.6 R_{\oplus}$ planets are not rocky and larger planets are even more likely to exhibit lower bulk densities (Rogers 2015; Weiss & Marcy 2014). However, it is worth noting that all seven planets in Figure 5 with densities consistent with a rocky composition (Kepler-10b, Kepler-20b, Kepler-36b, Kepler-78b, Kepler-93b, HD 219134b and CoRoT-7b) are highly irradiated with a bolometric flux larger than $F_v > 2 \cdot 10^5 \text{ J s}^{-1} \text{ m}^2$ (> 146 times the flux received by the Earth). It is thus possible, and perhaps even likely, that we are

measuring the masses of small planets in a particular part of parameter space that are hot and highly irradiated and could have lost their primordial gaseous envelope (if such envelopes were present) due to photo evaporation. If this is the case, we are thus measuring the masses of the bare cores of these planets.

Indeed, given the close-in orbit of Kepler-20b, and the likely low masses of Kepler-20e & f, we conclude that all three of these now likely rocky planets, could have formed with significant gaseous envelopes which were subsequently lost to atmospheric photo-evaporation (e.g. [Lopez et al. 2012](#)) or other processes like impact erosion (e.g. [Inamdar & Schlichting 2015](#)). Using the coupled thermal and photo-evaporative planetary evolution model of [Lopez et al. \(2012\)](#), we find that the all the planets in the Kepler-20 system are consistent with a scenario in which each of the planets accreted a significant H/He envelope composing $2 - 5\%$ of its total mass, but planets b, e, & f lost their in envelopes due to subsequent evolution. This is similar to the results found for a handful of other systems like Kepler-36 (e.g. [Lopez & Fortney 2013](#)), however, this type of evolutionary analysis is only possible for transiting systems with precise mass measurements.

It is important to significantly increase the number of precise mass measurements of transiting planets in order to populate the mass–radius diagram with planets of different sizes and masses at various orbital distances, including longer periods, that orbit a diverse sample of stellar types in order to fully appreciate the nature of the small exoplanets and their compositions.

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